

MANAGER BILLY FULL OF PRAISE

NEWPORT COUNTY manager Billy Lucas was full of praise for Wycombe Wanderers after their 3-1 victory in the F.A. Cup first round on Saturday.

"I thought they played very well," he said. "They compare very favourably with any league side we have met this season and that includes Peterborough United, who beat us 1-0."

"Wycombe used their pitch very well. They are a workmanlike side and very professional in their attitude."

Mr. Lucas picked out full back Roger Grant and Larry Pritchard as the players he admired most. "But it was an all-round team effort," he added. He also felt it could all have been different had Newport scored instead of hitting the crossbar soon into the second half.

"That might have finished it. It could have been a lot different if that one had gone in," he said.

I asked Mr. Lucas for his impressions of Peterborough. "They are about the best side we have met in the league this season," he told me. "They have some big lads and I think they will go into the match at

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Wycombe with a different attitude as they know they have already beaten us."

Wycombe boss Brian Lee thought Wycombe's performance was one of the best while he had been with the club. "I don't think anything could better the performance against Kettering when we scored five goals in the first half. The team spirit was superb when we won the Isthmian League title at Hendon and I rate this as about our third best performance."

"The support was tremendous and no doubt we'll get even greater support in the next round."

Mr. Jack Smethurst, Wycombe Wanderers chairman, said: "It was no surprise to me that we beat Newport. We won because our boys, unlike most of the Fourth Division sides, run for each

other and are prepared to chase the ball. On Saturday they worked hard for each other right to the end.

"We foster club spirit in the dressing room and it is reflected on the pitch. We always play attacking football, keeping the pressure on the other side, and we have had no player cautioned at all this season.

"We can give any third or fourth division side a good game, especially at Loakes Park."

Mr. Monty Scymour, Wycombe Wanderers president, said: "We won by 100 per cent team effort.

"And because of our present team spirit I am confident we can beat any fourth division side on our own ground, and many of those in the third division.

"I was especially pleased with the standard shown on Saturday. If you were asked to pick out anyone outstanding you would have to say 'All 12'."



Jubilation for Wycombe Wanderers as referee Spencer (left) signals their second goal scored by Steve Perrin (right) against Newport County in Saturday's F.A. Cup, first round tie. Dylan Evans (arms raised) and Tony Horsemann join in the celebrations while goalkeeper John Macey lies prostrate.